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March 15, 1978

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Update on Soviet Presence in South Yemen,
and South Yemeni Order of Battle

1. There have been no significant changes in either Soviet presence and activities in South Yemen or in the South Yemeni order of battle since we prepared the briefing for Sam Hoskinson of the NSC on 20 January.

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2. [] Soviet naval activity in South Yemen has changed little over the past two months. The Soviets still are making extensive use of the port of Aden, but do not seem to have achieved any control over facilities there or any increased access for their naval forces. This suggests that any negotiations for naval base rights there have not yet resulted in any agreement.

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3. [] The Soviets have been providing some amphibious lift support to the South Yemenis. []

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4. [] The approximately 650-man South Yemeni contingent of the Arab Defense Force was withdrawn from Lebanon during the second half of January. The troops and their equipment departed Lebanon reportedly for Aden, and we believe they returned to South Yemen rather than moving to Ethiopia or elsewhere.

This memorandum was prepared in the Office of Strategic Research. Queries and comments may be addressed to []

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5. [] We have not been able to substantiate reports of a build-up of South Yemeni forces, accompanied by some Cuban officers, on the Omani border. [] 25X1C
[] these reports were prompted by the re-
placement of regular army units near the border by the South Yemeni militia. Some Cuban military advisers are training South Yemen's militia, and this could account for the presence of Cubans in the area. These personnel probably represent no additional threat to Oman, and we have no evidence of contacts between Cubans and PFLO (Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman) rebels in the Dhofar Province of Oman.

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